Invitation to Prime Minister of Pakistan to Visit India

201. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has invited Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shrimati Benajir Bhutto, to visit India in the near future; and

(b) if so, what is the response of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) During the visit of Prime Minister to Islamabad in December 1988, both the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan had extended invitations to visit each each other's country. The invitations had been accepted by both the Prime Ministers.

Deportation of Indians from Singapore

202. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA :
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total number of illegal Indian immigrants in Singapore required to be deported to India after the amendment of the Immigration Act by Singapore Government in January, 1989 ;

(b) what is the number of such illegal immigrants who are presently in Singapore jails and are subjected to torture and harassment ; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government of India for their repatriation to the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) 1752 Indian visa-overstayers voluntarily registered themselves with the Indian High Commission in Singapore before May 23, 1989. All have since been repatriated with the assistance of the Government of India.

(b) According to available information, 60 Indians are presently in Singapore Jails on account of immigration offences. The Indian High Commission in Singapore has received no complaints from them of torture or harassment.

(c) After a series of consultations with the Singapore authorities in Singapore and New Delhi, it was agreed that all Indians who had overstayed their visas or had entered Singapore illegally and who voluntarily registered themselves with the Indian High Commission by May 23, 1989, would be repatriated without any penal action being taken by the Government of Singapore. Accordingly, 1752 Indians who registered themselves with the Indian High Commission have since been repatriated.

Necessary assistance had been given to the 10 Indians who had earlier been sentenced to varying periods of imprisonment and 3 strokes of cane, by the District Court of Singapore, for illegal entry/overstay, to file appeals in the High Court. Subsequent to the rejection of their appeals, 9 of them filed petitions to the President of Singapore for clemency and they have been excused from the sentence of caning but they have to serve their prison sentences. The Appeal of the 10th Indian for revision of the sentence is pending in the High Court of Singapore.

On 17th July, 1989, Singapore Government announced a second and final amnesty to enable all immigration offenders including those who have been arrested but are awaiting trial or repatriation to be repatriated without punishment from 18th July